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First name: Ryan
Last name: Zimny
Organization:
Title:
Comments: I am writing in opposition to the proposed expansion project by LUtsen Mountains. Although I am an avid alpine skier and race coach and normally would be in support of ski area expansions, this project has more cons than pros. Lutsen is already by far the largest ski area in the region. The existing footprint easily accommodates the visitor numbers with plenty of space for more visitors without diminishing the ski experience. Also, the terrain in the proposed expansion area is already utilized by the public as a backcountry ski location that would be ruined by turning it into more of the same that already exists under the current Lutsen ski area. Skiers that are priced out of Lutsen Mountains are currently able to enjoy skiing on public land by "earning their turns" without having to pay for a lift pass. At a time when fewer people are able to afford to alpine ski due to rising costs of the industry, we should be encouraging cheaper options for use on public land instead of pushing even more out. This area should be left to other user groups such as the backcountry skiers in the winter, and hikers and mountain bikers in the summer.